

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 24 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 18, 21 to 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aihara et al. (GB2135724 A).

Claims 10 to 17 are allowable. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowance.

Claims 19, 20 and 24 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants' representative believes the Examiner's reference to rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is a typographical error, because no claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, in the Office Action of January 8, 2009.

Claims 19 and 24 are amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and are submitted as being allowable. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 19, as amended. Claims 23 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 24, as amended. Claims 21 to 23, 25 are thus also submitted as being allowable.

Claims 16 and 24 have been amended to overcome objections.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 24 were objected to because it appears to the Examiner that the opening widens in the horizontal direction and not in the vertical direction. Claims 16 and 24 have been amended accordingly.

Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 18, 21 to 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Aihara et al. (GB2135724 A).

Aihara et al. discloses a sliding door mounting 16 for suspension on a box-type vehicle. Mounting 16 includes a guide track 18 and a roller assembly 20 in hinged or pivotal connection to the rear end C of a sliding door 10 and adapted to run along guide rail 18. Roller assembly 20 includes a roller bracket 22, a pair of first rollers 24 and a second roller 26. (Page 2, lines 18 to 28). Sliding door 16 includes a holding means 30 for holding sliding door 10 in an open position. Holding means 30 includes a hooked lever 32 mounted on roller assembly 20 in a manner to pivot about a pivot pin 28, a stopper 34 secured to the guide rail 18 for engagement with hooked lever 32 and a spring 36 placed around pivot pin 28 in a manner to urge hooked lever 32 counterclockwise for engagement with stopper 34. (Page 2, lines 63 to 72).

Claim 18, as amended, recites “[a] guiding system for a sliding door, in particular of a motor vehicle, the guiding system comprising

a runner rail with an upper cover and a lower termination arranged opposite the upper cover,
a rolling element with a rolling element housing being guided in the runner rail,
three rollers being rotatably fastened to the rolling element housing, with each of the three rollers being rotatable about a horizontal axis,

a first roller and a second roller of the three rollers running along the runner rail against the upper cover and the third roller running along the runner rail against the lower termination,

a spring element being fastened to the rolling element housing, the spring element loading one of the first roller and the second roller as well as the third roller against the runner rail,

wherein at least one of the three rollers is pivotable about a horizontal pivot axis, said pivot axis being arranged outside the horizontal axis said at least one of the three rollers is rotatable about.”

First, it is respectfully submitted that Aihara et al. does not disclose “a spring element being fastened to the rolling element housing, the spring element loading one of the first roller and the second roller as well as the third roller against the runner rail” as recited in claim 18. Spring 36 of Aihara et al. does not load any of rollers 24, 26 against rail 18, but is merely provided for urging hooked lever 32 into engagement with stopper 34. (Page 2, lines 63 to 74; Fig. 2). Thus, Aihara et al. in no way discloses the “spring element” of claim 18.

Second, it is respectfully submitted that Aihara et al. does not disclose “three rollers being

rotatably fastened to the rolling element housing, with each of the three rollers being rotatable about a horizontal axis” as recited in claim 18. Aihara et al. discloses three rollers 24, 26; however, rollers 24 are each rotatable about a vertical axis and not a horizontal axis. (Page 2, lines 31 to 35). Thus, Aihara et al. also in no way discloses “each of the three rollers being rotatable about a horizontal axis” as required by claim 18.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that Aihara et al. does not disclose “wherein at least one of the three rollers is pivotable about a horizontal pivot axis, said pivot axis being arranged outside the horizontal axis said at least one of the three rollers is rotatable about” as recited in claim 18. Rollers 24 are each only rotatable about a single vertical axis, respectively, and roller 26 is only rotatable about a single horizontal axis. It is respectfully submitted that none of the rollers is pivotable about any other axis. (Page 2, lines 31 to 35). Thus, Aihara et al. also does not disclose this limitation of claim 18.

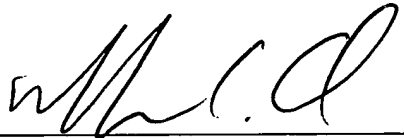
Because several limitations of claim 18 are not shown or taught by Aihara et al., withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and applicant requests such action.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 
William C. Gehris, Reg. No. 38,156

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue - 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940